

# **Community Council Priorities and Action Plans**

Approved by the Community Council on June 1

Updated October 23, 2001

## **Action Plan: Telehealth Reimbursement and Licensure**

Address the issues of telehealth reimbursement and licensure, by providing insurance companies, telehealth providers, and policy makers with information on these issues.

**Lead:** Telehealth Subcommittee

**Time Frame:** Completed

**Update:** The Telehealth Subcommittee has learned that many insurance companies are reimbursing for services provided via telehealth technologies. The situation is expected to improve after October 1 when new Medicare policies take effect which expand reimbursement for services offered via telehealth technologies.

## **Action Plan: Technical Assistance Center for Telehealth**

Explore the feasibility of establishing setting up a Technical Assistance Center for Telehealth. A virtual technical assistance center could provide technical assistance to telehealth providers. The Technical Assistance Center could be a virtual call center or could be Web-based with a bulletin board and best practices. A listserv might also be useful to link telehealth providers in the state.

**Lead:** Telehealth Subcommittee

**Time Frame:** Responsibility has been transferred to the Telehealth Development Committee

**Update:** A separate group, the Telehealth Development Committee, has been formed to pursue funding for telehealth development projects. The Telehealth Subcommittee will focus on policy-related issues surrounding telehealth. The Telehealth Subcommittee will also develop a telehealth section of the Community IT Toolkit by January, 2002.

## **Action Plan: Telehealth Standards**

Make recommendations to the Technical Panel regarding telehealth standards and compatibility issues.

**Lead:** Telehealth Subcommittee

**Time Frame:** June, 2001-July, 2002

**Update:** Michael Beach, the chair the of the Video Standards Work group, spoke to the Telehealth Subcommittee in August.

**Action Plan: Rural and Community IT Development**

Address the information technology planning needs of Nebraska's communities, by:

- Inventorying and assessing current programs and strategies that address community IT leadership and planning, intellectual infrastructure, and telecommunications infrastructure in communities.
- Identifying specific gaps, duplication and collaborative opportunities regarding information technology needs in communities, including community IT leadership and planning, intellectual infrastructure, and telecommunications infrastructure.
- Making recommendations regarding program development.
- Inventorying community-based IT planning groups in the state.
- Working with the Technologies Across Nebraska initiative to review, make recommendations, and develop Information Technology toolkit resources for communities.
- Conducting a series of meetings with members of community IT committees to review to solicit feedback.
- Making action item and policy recommendations to the Community Council and the NITC.

**Lead:** Rural and Community IT Development Planning Group

**Time frame:** May, 2001 – January, 2002

**Update:** A draft version of the Community IT toolkit was presented at the August 27 Technologies Across Nebraska meeting. Presentations on the toolkit have been given to at the League of Nebraska Municipalities annual meeting, the Nebraska Association of County Officials conference, the Nebraska Rural Institute, and at Nebraska Development network regional group meetings.

The Rural Development Commission has volunteered to conduct the inventory of community-based IT planning groups and anticipates having that information by November 15. The Technologies Across Nebraska Education Subcommittee is inventorying IT programs and classes.

**Action Plan: IT Needs of Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses**

Address the IT needs of entrepreneurs and small businesses by:

- Inventorying and assessing current programs which serve entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- Working with the Technologies Across Nebraska initiative to review, make recommendations, and an IT resource guide for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

**Lead:** Community Council and Technologies Across Nebraska initiative

**Time frame:** by January, 2002

**Update:** This action item will be completed as part of the Rural and Community IT Development action item listed above.

**Action Item: Information Technology Clearinghouse**

Continue to develop, within the NITC Web site, a clearinghouse service to provide convenient access to information about information technology.

**Lead:** Community Council, Local Government Subcommittee, Telehealth Subcommittee, and Rural and Community Technology Planning Group

**Time Frame:** Ongoing

**Update:** The Community IT Toolkit will be the new community section of the Clearinghouse.

**Action Plan: Local Government IT Needs**

Address local government IT needs by:

- Reviewing and evaluating information technology policy implications for local governments.
- Identifying and developing toolkit resources for local governments, including sample IT plans, sample inter-local agreements, best practices, and case studies.
- Identifying the implications of LB 827 and developing information resources to help local governments utilize the tools this bill offers communities.
- Developing local government policies and procedures that would
  - Reduce duplication of effort
  - Ensure appropriate compatibility of equipment and software both within a political jurisdiction and between other jurisdictions
  - Establish adequate and meaningful planning, and

- Establish uniform public policies and procedures which promote uniformity, resource sharing, standards and guidelines, support services, training, and cooperative development of geographic information systems.

**Lead:** Local Government IT Subcommittee

**Time Frame:** June, 2001-June, 2002

**Update:** Members of the Local Government Subcommittee met with NIDCAC to discuss this action plan. It was agreed that NIDCAC would focus on the policy issues and the Local Government Subcommittee would focus on developing and identifying toolkit resources. The Local Government section will be developed by January, 2002.